

THE COMING OF URBAN THE FIFTH

contado, and declared *popolani*. The Emperor, passing through Siena on his way to join the Pope at Viterbo, knighted two of the family for their services, and accepted an enormous present of money from the Commune.

On October 21, the Pope and the Emperor entered Rome together, Charles leading Urban's mule on foot. This was the great event for which Birgitta had so long waited in patience, but, now that it had come, it brought her a personal trial and disappointment. She had communicated her visions concerning the reformation of the Church to the Pope. She had written to the Emperor, urging him to unite in this great work, and she now wrote again in the name of Christ, bidding him hearken to her revelations, and strive to make the Divine justice and mercy feared and desired upon earth.¹ But Charles simply ignored her, and Urban had no time at present to attend to a woman's admonitions.

The state of Siena was bordering upon anarchy. The banished nobles held the fortresses in the contado, burned and foraged up to the gates of the city, and absolutely declined to come to terms with the government of the Defenders, at whose sentences and decrees they mocked. Malatesta sent the army of the Commune against them, but it effected nothing. On December 11, there was a popular rising against the less democratic element in the new administration. The mob fired the gate of the Palace, broke in, and drove out the representatives of the Nine and Twelve from the Signoria. Ultimately, by a kind of compromise, under the authority of the imperial vicar, a new council of plebeian reformers instituted a fresh Signoria of fifteen "Defenders," eight of the *popolo minuto*, four of the Twelve, and three of the Nine. The Captain of the People and the "Gonfalonier! Maestri" (the Gonfalonieri of the three terzi of the city) were always to be of the *fopolo minuto*, while the Captain was to have three counsellors, one from each order of the people, all together forming a supreme authority in criminal cases. Thus was established the

¹ *Revelationes*, IV. 45, VIII. 50, 51.